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ANNUAL REPORT OF 1943.

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Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Kay and Gentlemen,

Essex U.P.C.

This abbreviated form of Annual Medical Report is in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Health Circular 2773, dated March 10th, 1943.

All records are kept, however, so that a comprehensive report of the war years will be available when hostilities cease. The subjects commented upon and the order in which they appear, are suggested by Circular 10/44 from the Ministry of Health, dated February 15th, 1944.

General Health.

The Health of the district has been maintained. There is no evidence that rationing of food has had any ill effect on nutrition. A possible benefit has been the wider choice of foods that everyone has been compelled to seek. New tastes have been acquired by many with beneficial results by reason of a more balanced diet.

Cleanliness.

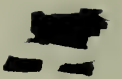
The School Children are under constant supervision and inspection by the Health Visitor and the School Nurse. Every child is examined and in the case of those children who are habitually dirty, or who show evidence of neglect, the homes are visited and the parents encouraged to make improvement. Children whose heads are infected with lice, or on whose hair even a solitary nit is found are sent to the School Clinic at 122 Exeter Rd, where a nurse attends twice a week to treat such cases. Lethane is used and reports show that it gives very good results. No cases of skin reaction have occurred after its use. During 1943, 885 children were treated in this way.

School Clinic.

The clinic is held on Monday and Thursday morning each week. Up to quite recently, the doctor attended at each session, but increased demands on his services have now made his attendance impossible on Thursdays.

Minor ailments are treated and simple dressings are undertaken. More and more mothers are coming with their children to avail themselves of the opportunity of consulting the doctor. For the most part, advice only is offered, the desire that it should become a form of dispensary has had to be resisted.

3,152 children were treated during the year, no attempt was made to determine the proportion of evacuees to Devon children.



Diphtheria Immunisation.

This clinic is held on the second Tuesday in each month. The numbers attending now average about 25, and have dropped so considerably that the services of a local doctor are no longer required. The drop in the number is due to the high percentage of children who are already fully protected. Pro agenda is still carried on by poster and leaflet and by appeal to individual parents whose children may be found to be unprotected. The School Nurse is always on the lookout for such children. The Health visitor is supplied with a list of new born babies in the district, and this list is constantly consulted, the mothers being urged to bring their babies for immunisation at the appropriate time.

The following figures are for the year 1943:-

	<u>Aged under 5 years.</u>	<u>Over 5 yrs. & Under 15</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Number of children who completed the full course of Immunisation.	138	48	186
Estimated percentage of children completely immunised.	74%	93%	

St Luke's Hospital.

This Isolation Hospital of 22 beds supplies a very real need. Although previously intended for the treatment of minor infections among evacuees, local children are also admitted when the home conditions make this course desirable. In addition to cases of minor infectious diseases, certain skin affections (e.g. impetigo) are also admitted, and this part of the service has been of the greatest value in curing such conditions in the shortest time.

Recently an outpatient department has been added to the hospital for the treatment of scabies. These cases are no longer admitted but are treated and returned to their own homes on the same day. Children are permitted to return to school on the following day. To make assurance the treatment is repeated in 7 days. By this means a great economy in money and effort has been effected without interfering in any way with the efficiency of the department, and no increase in the number of return cases has been noted.

118 cases were admitted during the year, including:-

Impetigo	65	Mumps	5	Chicken-pox	5
Whooping Cough	8	Measles	17	Other cases	18

Sickbay, 33 Morton Rd.

This sickbay was occupied exclusively in the treatment of scabies and during the year 420 cases were treated. At the request of the Ministry of Health, this sickbay is now closed and the nursing personnel transferred to St Luke's Hospital. This provided St Luke's with two matrons each responsible for her own department. After a visit by a representative of the Ministry of Health it was decided that one matron was sufficient to supervise both departments and Miss Houghton was appointed to the post.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The weekly clinic was continued at 122 Exeter Rd. During the year under the supervision of Drs. Beesley and Pritchard.

551 attendances were made by mothers and children.

Water Supply.

The source of the water supply to the district is partly from upland surface and partly from deep well. The proportion is roughly half and half yielding a mixture of all round usefulness. It is not sufficiently hard to produce any degree of furring but is sufficiently plumbic solvent to forbid the general use of lead pipes in households. The quantity is sufficient, the quality is satisfactory and the supply is constant. With the exception of three or four supplies to isolated houses that are fed direct from the main, all is chlorinated before consumption. Except for four houses with private piped supply from wells, the whole of the dwelling houses in the town are supplied from the mains.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

This has been conducted under great difficulty due to the extra work thrown on to the department. 1413 visits and inspections were carried out during the year. The greatest effort was devoted to food supplies, particular attention being given to milk and meat distribution.

Tabulated details of the work done is available but will not be published until after the war.

I am,

Your obedient servant,



3rd April.1944.

Medical Officer of Health.

